REMARKS

Mr. LEDIARD,

LATE

APPEAL

TO THE

PUBLICK,

Proper to be annexed to his NAVAL HISTORY,

and not only.

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M.DCC.XXXV.

REMARKS

ON

Mr. *LEDIARD*'s late APPEAL to the PUBLICK.

I HAVE, ſince Mr. *Lediard*'s Appeal to the Publick lately came forth, comparing his *Naval-Hiſtory* with that of Mr. *Burchett*'s, taken the Trouble of reading one and the other, and that with no ſmall Attention. When I had ſo done, I began to conſider what might have induced Mr. *Lediard*, after his Book had been ſome time publiſhed, to thruſt into the World a Twelve-Penny Pamphlet, invidiouſly reflecting on many Things contained in Mr. *Burchett*'s Work.

While I was muſing on this, I at length conjectured, that Mr. *Lediard*'s ſhewing his Spleen in the Manner he hath done, might have ariſen from Advertiſements which Mr. *Burchett* put into ſome of the printed Papers, whereby he expreſs'd ſome Uneaſineſs at Mr. *Lediard*'s having not, amongſt the Collections which he hath ſet forth, inſerted any thing of Mr. *Burchett*'s Anſwer to Col. *Lillingſton*'s ſcurrilous Reflections on the Account he had given of the Expedition to *Port du Paix*, after the Pleaſure he had given himſelf of reciting the greateſt Part of thoſe very Reflections in his Book; and I having found an Opportunity of diſcourſing Mr. *Burchett* thereupon (with whom I have not only been long acquainted, but for whoſe Reputation, as far as juſtifiably I may, I ſhall always have a particular Regard) I asked him why, when Mr. *Lediard* was publiſhing a *Naval Hiſtory*, he did not furniſh him with his aforeſaid Anſwer to Col. *Lillingſton*, in Order to its being taken Notice of by him, in ſuch Manner as it ought in Juſtice to have been?

The Anſwer which Mr. *Burchett* made to me, was this; That he having given an Account of that Expedition to *Port du Paix*, not only in the Memoirs he publiſhed in the Reign of King *William*, but repeated the ſame in his Volume on that Subject, printed in the Reign of his late Majeſty King *George*; he did not think there was Occaſion for him to ſay any thing more relating thereunto, being entirely ſatisfy'd, that he had ſufficient Vouchers, not only to juſtify what he had written in thoſe two Books, but alſo his Anſwers to Col. *Lillingſton*; but that, finding, upon peruſing Mr. *Lediard*'s Work, he had entirely omitted his aforeſaid Anſwer to Colonel *Lillingſton*, he thought it neceſſary to advertiſe him thereof in one of the daily

daily printed Papers, and to desire that Justice might be done him therein, without pretending to chalk out how, or in what Manner; not doubting but that Mr. *Lediard*, while he was so diligently searching after Truth and Materials, towards furnishing out his History, had, at least, accidentally, if not otherwise, met with one of those little Books which he had published in Answer to Colonel *Lilling ston*, since they had long been in the Hands of so many Persons.

That Mr. *Lediard* having publickly declar'd, he had never seen one of those Books, and that it was entirely unknown to him, whether Mr. *Burchett* had made any such Answer to Col. *Lilling ston*, or not, he sent one of them to him by a Gentleman, with whom he, Mr. *Lediard*, had some Acquaintance; and Mr. *Burchett* hath assured me, that it would have satisfy'd him, had Mr. *Lediard* given himself the Trouble of hinting in any one of these Papers daily printed, that he had received such a Book from him, and that he would endeavour to give him all reasonable Satisfaction, as soon as he could have a convenient Opportunity of doing it.

I then took the Liberty of asking Mr. *Burchett*, whether he knew Mr. *Lediard*; to which he answer'd, he was so far from knowing him, that he could not remember he had ever seen him, notwithstanding what is insinuated in the Twelve-Penny Pamphlet before-mentioned, That Mr. *Lediard* hath not only been at the *Smyrna* Coffee-House near St. *James*'s, when he was there, but that he had been frequently at the *Admiralty-Office*, during the Time he was gathering his Materials; but if so, Mr. *Burchett* declares he neither knew him at that Coffee-House, nor so much as heard such a Person as Mr. *Lediard* had been at the Office; and that, if, at any time, when there, he would have given himself the Trouble of applying to him, he should readily have furnished him with any thing in his Power towards carrying on the Work he had in Hand.

When I parted from Mr. *Burchett*, I took into Consideration the Memoirs which he had published in the Reign of Queen *Anne*, and his Volume relating also to *Naval*-Transactions, printed in his late Majesty's Reign, and carefully examined what was contained in both, concerning the Expedition to *Port du Paix*; and, notwithstading the pretended Veracity of Mr. *Lediard*, I could not find any material Difference therein, except the Word *Major* in the latter, instead of *Colonel* in the former, which first Mistake might have happened, either from the Transcriber, or the Printer; so that it plainly appear'd to me, the Publisher of the Twelve-Penny Pamphlet, hath been under a gross, I forbear to say wilful Error, in insinuating, that after Colonel *Lilling ston*'s Reflections came out, Mr. *Burchett* was thereby induced to make several Alterations in the second Account he gave of the aforesaid Expedition, the contrary whereof may appear to any Person who will be at the Trouble of comparing one with the other.

When I had satisfy'd myself in this Particular, I had Recourse to Col. *Lilling ston*'s Reflections on what Mr. *Burchett* had written, relating to the said Expedition, and the Answers which Mr. *Burchett* had made thereunto; and as I found that the Colonel, or some Person for him, had treated that Matter with an uncommon Warmth, and not in that decent Manner which might have been expected from one Gentleman to another; so was it plain, on Mr. *Burchett*'s Part, that, instead of railing (though not without shewing some

ſome Reſentment) he had given ſo many Proofs for ſupporting what he had publiſhed relating to this Affair, that no one would ſcruple to give Credit thereunto, unleſs he could be prevail'd upon to imagine, that a great Number of Gentlemen, who bore Commiſſions in the Squadron which was ſent to *Porto du Paix*, could poſſibly be ſo influenced, as to agree, in all Reſpects, in the Accounts which they gave of the Conduct of that Expedition; and I alſo find by the aforeſaid Anſwer to Col. *Lillingſton*, who lived ſome Years after it was publiſhed, that Mr. *Burchett* did not ſeem backward in juſtifying what he had wrote, in any other Manner than with his Pen only.

When I had examined into theſe Matters, I took an Opportunity of asking Mr. *Burchett* a ſecond Time, what he then judged might be the real Occaſion of publiſhing the before-mention'd Pamphlet, who, after pauſing a while, told me, that he was, indeed, at a Loſs how to ſatisfy me therein, unleſs it proceeded from what was ſet forth in a Paper publiſhed ſome time before, by ſome Gentlemen who write the *Hyp-Doctor*, wherein there were Reflections on Mr. *Lediard*'s Proceedings with relation to him; whereupon, I asked Mr. *Burchett* if he had ſignify'd his Deſire to the aforeſaid Gentleman, that any thing of ſuch a Nature might be inſerted in their Paper, whereupon he frankly gave me the following Account; That thoſe Gentlemen having read in one of the News Papers, an Advertiſement which he had publiſhed, ſhewing his Diſcontent that Mr. *Lediard* had taken no Notice in his Anſwer to Col. *Lillingſton*'s ill-grounded Reflections, he received a very friendly Letter from one of them, deſiring the Loan of one of the Books, containing his aforeſaid Anſwer, that ſo Endeavours might be uſed to do him Juſtice. That accordingly he ſent him the Book, but was ſo far from deſiring that any thing might be inſerted in their Paper, which would carry with it any Reflections on Mr. *Lediard*, that he rather inſiſted on the contrary; and that as he did not conceive they would have mentioned more than what was neceſſary towards juſtifying him in the Diſpute which he formerly had with Col. *Lillingſton*; ſo he ſolemnly declared that he was utterly a Stranger to the Contents of the Paper, until it was brought to him amongſt others, which had been publiſhed that Day; and to the Truth of this he appeals to the Gentlemen themſelves.

However, ſaid Mr. *Burchett*, this might, for ought I know, have given Birth to the invidious Appeal which hath been made to the Publick, grounded, not unlikely, on a Belief which Mr. *Lediard*, or his Bookſeller, or both, might have entertained, that he, Mr. *Burchett*, had either written, or procured the writing of the aforeſaid Paper, in the Manner it appear'd abroad, in Order to the hindring the Sale of Mr. *Lediard*'s Book.

As to what is alledg'd in the afore-mention'd out-of-the-way Pamphlet, that Mr. *Lediard* could have procured from the *Admiralty-Office* the ſame Materials which Mr. *Burchett* made Uſe of, in order to the compoſing his *Naval-Hiſtory*, eſpecially that Part thereof which commences from the Revolution, Mr. *Burchett* aſſures me, that ſuch an Aſſertion is directly oppoſite to Truth, becauſe the Papers moſt neceſſary for that Purpoſe were unfortunately burnt in the Garden belonging to the Office; and that, had he not taken with his own Hand, Extracts out of them before that unluckly Accident happen'd, not only he would have been deprived of

making the Uſe of them he hath done, and conſequently Mr. *Lediard* from him.

Thoſe Papers, as Mr. *Burchett* aſſures me, were not of ſuch a Nature as Mr. *Lediard* might poſſibly conceive them to be; for, beſides others of no ſmall Conſequence, they were Original Letters from ſuch Perſons of Quality, and Gentlemen, who had been Admirals of the Fleet, or filled Stations of conſiderable Rank therein, much the greater Part of whom are ſince dead: And that whoever had informed Mr. *Lediard* that ſuperior Officers do, like thoſe who are not ſo, deliver in Journals of their Proceedings to the Admiralty, or any other Office, have altogether led him in the dark; as more than probable it is they have done in divers other Things: For the Admiral, and other Flag-Officers of the Fleet, have, from time to time, given Accounts to the Lord High-Admiral, or the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, of their Proceedings, by Letters, inſtead of Journals, to him, as Secretary, for near forty Years paſt; and what Mr. *Burchett* collected out of thoſe Letters, and other Papers of Importance, Mr. *Lediard* hath, as is obſerved above, been beholden to him for, he having tranſcribed great Part thereof from his Hiſtory into his own; though when he occaſionally quotes him in the Margin of his Book, which he hath very often done, he hath ſo blended his Name amongſt others, that in ſome Places it may be difficult for the Reader to diſtinguiſh what Part of his Work is actually owing to the Pains Mr. *Burchett* had taken, long before he, Mr. *Lediard*, had ſo much as Thoughts of compiling his Hiſtory.

The Author of the Appeal hath put ſo high a Value on Mr. *Lediard*'s Performance, that it is natural to think he hath beſtowed thoſe fulſom Encomiums on himſelf. He is, in a high Degree, extoll'd for Things cramm'd into his Book, which Mr. *Burchett* did not think proper to inſert in his. He hath not ſwell'd his Work with long Relations of Voyages to ſeveral Parts of the World, as Mr. *Lediard* hath done, many of which were undertaken by private Perſons; for he was ſenſible Things of that Kind might be found in Authors who have particularly written on thoſe Subjects, and from whom Mr. *Lediard* hath made ſeveral of his ſo-much-valued Collections.

Mr. *Burchett* hath not crouded into his Hiſtory (which was purpoſely written to ſhew what Actions, or Engagements, had happened betwixt Naval Fleets, or Squadrons) any Accounts ſhewing when, and in what manner, the ſeveral Trading Companies of this Kingdom were eſtabliſhed in Foreign Parts.

He judg'd it inconſiſtent, with the Work he undertook, to inform his Readers what Sums of Money the Honourable Houſe of Commons gave, from time to time, for maintaining a Naval Armament at Sea: Nor hath he waſted Paper, by relating at what Times his Majeſty King *William* took his Paſſage from this Kingdom to *Holland*; and as little did he eſteem it neceſſary for him to take Notice in his Volume, of the Charters, Letters-Patents, Privileges, and Immunities, granted either by the Crown of *England*, or by Foreign Princes, for the Encouragement of Foreign Diſcoveries, Settlements, and Branches of Trade, and many other Matters contained in Mr. *Lediard*'s, which Mr. *Burchett* rightly judged might be much more

more properly handled in a Treatiſe by itſelf. Nor did he deem it incumbent on him to ſet forth the Actions of Privatiers, or of ſuch Ships as had Commiſſions of Marque or Reprizals, which muſt unneceſſarily have ſwell'd his Work to much too large a Bulk. Poſſibly Mr. *Lediard* imagined that the ſtuffing ſuch Matters as theſe into his Book, were neceſſary for filling up thoſe Intervals which might otherwiſe have happened therein; but Mr. *Burchett* purpoſely avoided the ſame, and hath only given Accounts of what *remarkably happened at Sea* betwixt Naval Forces, without deſcending to other Particulars entirely remote from the ſame.

As to the Partiality which the vain-glorious Examiner of the two Hiſtories hath charged Mr. *Burchett* with, I have Authority from him to ſay, that the ſame is not only an ungenerous, but a malicious Inſinuation, and cramm'd into the Appeal, as he hath Reaſon to believe, with no other Intent than to caſt a Slur on his Reputation, which he believes Mr. *Lediard* will never have it in his Power to do.

I cannot conceive what Views Mr. *Burchett* could have, in ſhewing Partiality to any Perſon whoſe Name, or Actions, he had occaſion to mention in his Hiſtory, whatever Mr. *Lediard* hath invidiouſly publiſhed to the contrary; and as he hath ſolemnly declared to me, that he was far from having ſuch Intentions, ſo do I not find any thing of that Nature throughout his whole Hiſtory; and if he hath not ſhewn ſo much Rancour in ſome Particulars as Mr. *Lediard* hath done, it ought to be rather attributed to his known Humanity, than to any other Motive whatever.

On the other Hand, it may be ſaid, and very juſtly too, that Mr. *Lediard* hath not been wanting of Partiality even to himſelf, not only in his Hiſtory, but in his late Appeal to the Publick, the latter of which he hath had the Vanity to advertiſe twice, but with what View, it is not difficult to gueſs; for, probably, if his Book doth not go off as faſt as was expected, the leſs will be his Advantage; and therefore it is not unlikely he hath, partly with a View to his own Intereſt, and partly at the preſſing Inſtances of his Bookſeller, taken theſe indirect Methods, to make the World believe that It is what, in reality, It is not.

As to the Obſervation which hath been made in the aforemention'd Appeal, that Mr. *Burchett* hath not ſhewn ſo much Regard as he ought to Chronology; may there not be Reaſon to believe that, if ſo, Mr. *Lediard* hath been miſled by ſome Authors he hath perus'd and quoted? Or doth he conceive, contrary to the Opinion of others, that they were all endued with Infallibility, and that, conſequently, he muſt be ſo too, by following their Footſteps.

And as to Mr. *Burchett*'s not continuing his Hiſtory from the Cloſe of the laſt War with *France* to theſe Times, which is another Thing ſlily inſinuated, he hath given me Authority to ſay, That had he not found his Health much impair'd by a ſtrict Attendance to Publick Buſineſs, even from his Youth, he would have taken on him the Trouble of ſuch an additional Taſk, whereby Mr. *Lediard* might have had Opportunity of copying ſeveral Paſſages therefrom, as he hath done in other Parts of his Collection. And notwithſtanding what Mr. *Lediard* hath affirmed, that Mr. *Burchett* hath taken that Part of his Naval Hiſtory during the Time of Queen *Anne*, entirely from

from the printed Annals of her Majeſty's Reign, he doth proteſt, That it is both frivolous and groundleſs, he having not, to the beſt of his Knowledge, ever read thoſe Annals with ſo much Attention, as to make that Uſe of them, Mr. *Lediard* takes the Liberty to ſay he hath. And to confute what he hath as unwarily averr'd, that Mr. *Burchett* had employ'd himſelf a very conſiderable Number of Years in writing his Volume, he doth declare, That from the Time he took the ſame in Hand, to that of it's being printed, it did not amount to a Year and a Half, if ſo much: Wherefore th[illegible] ſhould a Perſon aſſert that for Truth which doth ſo widely differ therefrom? Mr. *Burchett* hath too much good Nature to believe otherwiſe, than that Mr. *Lediard* hath publiſhed ſeveral Things too much upon Truſt, and thereby unfortunately given Mankind ſome Reaſon to doubt of [illegible]at Veracity, which he ſo much values himſelf for.

Since this Paper was thus far written, Mr. *Burchett* hath ſeen one, call'd the *Hyp-Doctor*, printed the 13th of this preſent Month of *May*, Numb. 234; and as he hereby acknowledges himſelf extreamly obliged to the Gentlemen concerned therein, for their Endeavours a ſecond Time to juſtify his Reputation againſt Mr. *Lediard*'s unbecoming Reflections; ſo doth he ſolemly proteſt, that he was ſo far from making any Application to thoſe Gentlemen, or any one of them, to inſert any thing in the aforeſaid Paper, relating either to Mr. *Lediard* or himſelf, that he never knew, or ſaw what is contain'd therein, until it was publiſh'd; and if Mr. *Lediard* thinks thoſe Gentlemen have treated him too roughly, how was it in the Power of Mr. *Burchett* to prevent it? I can Anſwer for him, that until he was provoked to it, he had not the leaſt Intention of committing any thing of this Kind to the Preſs, relating either to Mr. *Lediard*'s Hiſtory, or his own; but, in my Opinion, he would have been much wanting to himſelf, had he not conſented to the publiſhing what is proper for defending his own Reputation, which Mr. *Lediard* hath, with ſo much Vanity and Arrogance, attack'd.

I know he hath been blam'd by his Friends, for the unneceſſary Trouble he had before put himſelf to, of contending with a Perſon unknown to him, and who, probably, may write for Ends different from thoſe he formerly had, or now hath, in View; but he hath engaged his Word to them, that what is contained in theſe Sheets, ſhall put a Stop, on his Part, to this Controverſy, however Mr. *Lediard* may think it worth his while to employ his Talent; to whom I recommend a ſtrict Regard to that Saying of *Horace*, which he hath placed in the Title Page of his Appeal, *viz.*

To ſeek for Truth and Worth I now Deſign;
Be that alone my Care.

N. B. This Paper would have been publiſhed ſooner, had not Matters of more Importance prevented it.

FINIS.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM